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MINUTES  
OF THE  
SYNOD OF VIRGINIA,  
AT THEIR SESSION IN  
LEXINGTON,  
OCTOBER, 1864.  
WITH AN APPENDIX.

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PUBLISHED BY ORDER OF THE SYNOD.

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## MINUTES.

LEXINGTON, *October 12th*, 1864.

The Synod of Virginia met pursuant to adjournment, in the Presbyterian church in Lexington, at 11 o'clock, A. M. A sermon was preached by the Moderator, Rev. A. Hart, on James ch. i. 9, 10 vs: "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low." After which the body was constituted with prayer.

The following members were present during the sessions:

### *Greenbrier Presbytery.*

MINISTERS—J. C. Barr, R. P. Kennedy, S. R. Houston, M. H. Bittinger, James H. Leps, (2) H. B. Rose.

ELDERS—Thomas Matthews, James Withrow.

### *Lexington Presbytery.*

MINISTERS—F. McFarland, D. D., W. S. White, D. D., N. W. Calhoun, H. Brown, S. Brown, W. W. Trimble, W. Pinkerton, W. H. Ruffner, A. L. Hogshead, W. T. Price, J. K. Harris, T. L. Preston, E. Thomas, (2) E. D. Jukin, (2) F. H. Bowman, (2) W. G. Campbell, C. S. M. See, (2) W. E. Baker, R. S. Reese, (2) Luther Emerson, (2.)

ELDERS—J. T. L. Preston, S. W. Lyle, Jonathan Brooks, Jas. W. Calhoun, W. A. Bell, H. Guthrie.

### *Winchester Presbytery.*

MINISTERS—W. H. Foote, D. D.

ELDERS—None,

### *Montgomery Presbytery.*

MINISTERS—James M. Rice, W. F. Junkin, John S. Grasty, Andrew Hart, L. H. Blanton, (2) Alexander B. Carrington, (2) S. D. Stuart, (2.)

ELDERS—W. J. Wilson, F. Johnston (2) R. J. McClure (2.)

\*The figure following a name indicates the day of the Session which the member took his seat.

*West Hanover Presbytery.*

MINISTERS—John H. Bocock, D. D., (2) D. B. Ewing, (2) R. McIlwaine, (2) R. L. Dabney, D. D., (2.)

ELDERS—F. N. Watkins, (2) W. M. Harris, (2)

*East Hanover Presbytery.*

MINISTERS—John Miller, B. T. Lacy, G. W. White, G. D. Armstrong, D. D., (2) J. Murray, (2) Wm. Brown, D. D., (2.)

ELDERS—Robert A. Payne, (2.)

*Roanoke Presbytery.*

MINISTERS—J. B. Ramsey, D. D., H. C. Alexander, Alex. Martin, (2) B. W. Mosely, (2.)

ELDERS—W. R. Rice, (2) James R. Holt, (2.)

Owing to the disturbed state of the country, and the consequent interruption of travel, only a small proportion of the ministers were present at the opening of Synod; it was, therefore, resolved, not to proceed with the regular business until to-morrow, but to unite this afternoon at 4 o'clock, with the congregation in their regular weekly prayer meeting, in behalf of our country.

Adjourned till to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

THURSDAY MORNING, *October 13th*, 9 oclock.

Synod met and was opened with prayer.

The formation of the roll was completed. On motion it was now resolved, to receive the roll of the Presbyteries of the United Synod, which rolls were presented by the Moderator of said Synod, Rev. T. W. Hooper, and on being called, the following members answered to their names, and took their seats as members of this Synod.

*Presbytery of Piedmont.*

Jacob D. Mitchell, D. D., Thomas W. Hooper.

*Presbytery of Hanover.*

A. Converse, D. D., Joseph C. Stiles, D. D., A. J. Leavenworth, C. H. Read, D. D., P. Fletcher, J. D. Thomas, Philip B. Price, F. B. Converse, and Ruling Elder, J. N. Gordon.

*New River Presbytery.*

J. McChain.

The following resolutions were offered by Rev. William Brown, D. D.

*Resolved*, 1. That the Synod of Virginia having consummated in due form, the ecclesiastical union, provided for in the plan adopted by the General Assembly, and by the United Synod of the Presbyterian Church, does hereby contemplate with great satisfaction an event so full of interest to our Zion, and so important in its bearing upon her welfare.

2. That we deem the occasion to be one calling for devout gratitude to the Father of Mercies, for the manifest guidance of His Holy Spirit, and the watchful care of His Holy providence, in the christian spirit and successful measures by which our divisions have been healed.

3. That we solemnly pledge ourselves to God, and to each other, that no effort shall be wanting to make this union a blessed reality to our church, by upholding her time-honored faith and order, as presented in her standards, and as currently expounded in times past by our fathers. And we do now earnestly exhort and enjoin upon our people everywhere, that they shall henceforth strive to carry into full effect the scheme embraced by this movement, in the same spirit in which, as we believe, it has been begun and ended.

After a full and free expression of mutual gratification on the part of the members of both bodies, that this union had now been so happily consummated, the resolutions were unanimously adopted. The Synod was then led in prayer and thanksgiving to the great Head of the Church by Rev. C. H. Read, D. D., and Rev. F. McFarland, D. D.

Synod proceeded to the election of a Moderator, when Rev. C. H. Read, D. D., was unanimously chosen as Moderator, and Rev. P. Fletcher and F. Johnston were chosen as clerks.

Synod then took a recess until three and a half o'clock, P. M.

Synod met after recess, when Rev. R. S. Reese, Rev. Luther Emerson and Rev. C. S. M. See appeared, and having rendered satisfactory reason for tardiness, took their seats.

Rev. H. Thompson, D. D., of the Associate Reformed Church being present, was invited to sit as a corresponding member.

A letter was read from Rev. J. L. Wilson, Secretary of the Committee of Domestic Missions, on the subject of supplying Chaplains for the army, which, on motion, was referred to a Committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Dabney, B. T. Lacy, P. B. Price, J. T. L. Preston and J. N. Gordon, to report thereon at three o'clock, P. M. to-morrow.

On motion, a Committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Brown, J. Miller and B. McIlwaine, were appointed to prepare a suitable memorial respecting the death of Rev. Wm. J. Hoge, D. D.; and Rev. J. S. Grasty, A. Hart and F. Johnston, were appointed a Committee to prepare a memorial of Rev. Wm. P. Hickman.

On motion, it was resolved that the Committee on Union Theological Seminary, be instructed to inquire into the expediency and practicability of increasing the salaries of the Professors, and to report any instructions which the Synod should give to the Directors, relating to this subject.

The Moderator announced the following Standing Committees:

*On Leave of Absence*—Messrs. Hogshead, Hooper and J. W. Calhoun.

*On Bills and Overtures*—Messrs. Hart, McClain, Bocoek, and F. N. Walker.

*Judicial Committee*—Messrs. Mitchell, McFarland, Stiles, Dabney, and J. T. L. Preston.

*On Union Theological Seminary*—Messrs. Armstrong, Miller, Foote, Stuart and P. B. Price.

*On Minutes of General Assembly*—Messrs. Ewing, E. D. Junkin and J. N. Gordon.

*On the Narrative*—Messrs. Thomas L. Preston, Hooper and Barr.

*On Devotional Exercises*—Messrs. W. S. White, Blanton and S. Brown.

On motion, it was resolved, that a Committee, consisting of a member from each of the Presbyteries in this Synod and the United Synod, be appointed to report a plan for arranging Presbyterial lines throughout this Synod, in accordance with the plan of Union; and the following were appointed on that Committee, Messrs. Ramsey, J. D. Mitchell, R. McIlwaine, William Brown, Barr, Hart, McChain, P. B. Price and Foote.

The following preamble and resolution were offered, and unanimously adopted.

*Whereas*, In the existing state of the country, it is feared that among other prevailing sins, the violation of the Sabbath is becoming very common, therefore,

*Resolved*, That the attention of the Ministers, Church Sessions and people under the charge of this Synod, is earnestly called to the observance of the Sabbath, and that pastors be instructed to preach on this subject, as soon after the adjournment of Synod as practicable.

On motion, a Committee consisting of Messrs. Foote, Styles, and Baker, was appointed to prepare a Pastoral Letter to the churches under the care of this Synod.

On motion it was

*Resolved*, That the first half hour of each morning's session of Synod, be occupied with devotional exercises.

Synod adjourned until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

FRIDAY, October 14th, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met and after being opened with prayer, half an hour was spent in devotional exercises. The minutes of the proceedings of yesterday, and the previous day were read and approved.

Rev. W. E. McElwee, of the Associate Reformed Church, Rev. J. McC. Campbell and George Eagleton of the Synod of Mississippi, and the Rev. Isaac N. Caldwell of the Synod of Tennessee, being present, were invited to sit as corresponding members.



A letter was read from the stated clerk of the Synod of North Carolina, which was referred to the Committee on Union Theological Seminary.

The Treasurer of Synod presented a report, showing that there was a deficiency of about \$270, in paying the expense of printing the minutes of last year, and providing for the printing those of the present meeting, and on motion, a Committee was appointed, consisting of the Rev. J. Miller, J. T. L. Preston and Robert A. Payne, to report upon some means of supplying this deficiency, and to arrange such assignments for the future as may be deemed expedient.

The Committee appointed to audit and examine the accounts of contributions made for benevolent purposes, through the Central Presbyterian, made a report, which was read, and on motion, adopted.

This report shows that the sum of \$18,607.60, appears to have been received, and as the Committee believe the several sums "given, appropriated faithfully to their respective objects."

On motion, the Presbyteries were called for statistical reports, and for reports on Evangelistic Labor, and Systematic Benevolence, and reports were received from the Presbyteries of Greenbrier, Lexington, Montgomery, West Hanover, Hanover, Piedmont, and New River.

The following Statistical Reports were received.

The Presbytery of Greenbrier report to Synod that they have under their care 23 churches, and 1 Licentiate.

On the 16th of April, 1864, they ordained Mr. James Haynes as an Evangelist.  
Oct. 8th, 1862.

J. C. BARR, S. C.

Lexington Presbytery report to Synod that they consist of 28 Ministers, and have under their care 38 churches, 2 Licentiates and 1 candidate.

That on the 21st day of April they received the Rev. R. S. Reese, from the Presbytery of Lafayette, and the Rev. Henry Brown from the Presbytery of Cherokee.

That on the 22nd day of April, for reasons stated on their minutes, the names of the Rev. Messrs. Orr, Lawson and Thomas Hempstead, were stricken from their roll.

By order of the Presbytery,

April 26th. 1864.

S. BROWN, S. C.

The Presbytery of Montgomery report to Synod that they consist of 16 Ministers, and have under their care 28 churches, 2 Licentiates and 5 candidates.

That on — of May, the Rev W. P. Hickman died of wounds received in the battle of Cloyd's Mountain, May —.

Sept. 14, 1864.

L. H. BLANTON, S. C.

The Presbytery of West Hanover report to the Synod of Virginia, that they consist of 17 Ministers, and have under their care 22 churches and 8 Licentiates.

That they licensed James Power Smith, on the 29th December, 1863, and W. C. Brooks and William Dinwiddie, on April 15th, 1864, to preach the Gospel.

That during the year they have dissolved the following pastoral relations, viz:

Between Rev. L. C. Vass and Amheist church, April 15th, 1864, between Rev. Daniel B. Ewing and Orange Church, September 21st, 1864, between J. S. Armistead, D. D., and Cumberland church, September 21st, 1864.

That they have received the following individuals, viz:

October 24th, 1863, Rev. Richard Mellwaine from East Hanover Presbytery; December 29th, 1863, Mr. James P. Smith as a candidate from Winchester Presbytery; September 21st, 1864, Rev. E. W. Bedinger from Ebenezer Presbytery, Ky.

That they have dismissed the following, viz:

April 15th, 1864, Mr. Thornton M. Niven, as a Licentiate to Roanoke Presbytery; same day, Rev. James H. Brooks, D. D., to the same; September 21st, 1864, Rev. D. B. Ewing to Montgomery Presbytery.

That on September 21st, 1864, they organized Willis church and received it under their care.

That they have taken the following candidates under their care, viz:

April 21st, 1864, Mr. W. C. Brooks, afterwards licensed; April 16th, 1864, Mr. W. L. Bailey.

By order of West Hanover Presbytery,

October 10, 1864.

J. S. ARMISTEAD.

On motion, Rev. P. B. Price was appointed to receive contributions for benevolent purposes, that may be in the hands of members of Synod.

On motion it was

*Resolved*, That the Presbyterial Narrative on the State of Religion be referred without being read, to the Synod's Committee on the Narrative.

The Moderator announced the following Committees on Presbyterial Records.

*Greenbrier*—Rev. W. Trimble, E. D. Junkin and J. W. Calhoun.

*Lexington*—Rev. S. R. Houston, D. B. Ewing and William J. Wilson.

*Montgomery*—Rev. W. E. Baker, R. P. Kennedy and Thomas Matthews.

*West Hanover*—Rev. F. H. Bowman, John S. Grasty and C. McClure.

*East Hanover*—Rev. Wm. G. Campbell, S. D. Stuart, and W. H. Harris.

*Roanoke*—Rev. L. H. Blanton, J. Murray and Robt. A. Payne.

On motion, Rev. J. S. Armistead, Rev. B. M. Smith, Rev. James Morrison, T. D. Bell, and D. C. Irwin, were excused for not attending the present sessions of Synod, and Rev. D. B. Ewing for not attending the last meeting.

Synod took recess until after Divine Service.

After recess Synod met.

The hour having arrived to hear the report of the Committee on Army Chaplains, that Committee presented a report, which was received and discussed at some length, when it appearing that the subject had awakened a warm interest, and in view of its importance, the subject was laid over until to-morrow morning, and made the first order of the day.

A motion was made to admit to a seat in the Synod David Humphrey, Ruling Elder from the church of Charlestown, now within the enemy's lines, and it appearing that the facts of the case were not sufficiently understood, a Committee consisting of Rev. Messrs. W. S. White, Wm. Brown and J. Miller, were appointed to inquire

into and report the facts, with a view to further action on the case.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

SATURDAY, *October 15th*, 9 o'clock, A. M.

Synod met and was opened with prayer.

Half an hour was spent in Devotional Exercises.

The Committee on Union Theological Seminary made a report, which was received and adopted.

The Board of Directors of the Union Theological Seminary failed to hold its annual meeting in June last, in consequence of the disturbed state of the country. For this reason the Committee have had no papers put in their hands.

They recommend that the following resolutions be adopted by the Synod, viz:

1st. *Resolved*, That the President of the Board of Directors be requested to call a meeting of the Board at an early day, if practicable, to consider, among other things, the propriety and means for affording the Professors a competent support, in the peculiar circumstances of the country at the present time, and this Synod will approve an immediate application to all churches within its bounds, by an agent or otherwise.

2d. *Resolved*, That to furnish the means of paying the traveling expenses of members of the Board, the several Presbyteries be assessed for the coming year, as follows, viz:

East Hanover 140, Roanoke 100, West Hanover 80, Montgomery 80, Winchester 40, Greenbrier 40, Lexington 100.

In pursuance of a recommendation, and nominations to that effect by the Committee, the following Directors were appointed, viz: Joseph Cloyd of Pulaski county, in the place of Eli Phlegar of Montgomery, who has died since the last meeting; John R. Tucker of the city of Richmond, in the place of R. B. Sherrard of Winchester; Rev. J. C. Barr of Greenbrier, in the place of Rev. J. H. Leps; and Rev. Wm. H. Foote, D. D., whose terms of office have expired; and on motion, the letter from the Stated Clerk of the Synod of North Carolina, which has been referred to the Committee on the Seminary, was laid on the table until the report of the Board of Directors and Faculty is received.

A letter was read from R. F. Lester of Petersburg, who is connected with the Evangelical Tract Society, asking the sympathy and co-operation of this Synod, in the operations of that Society, and, on motion, the subject was referred to a Committee consisting of Rev. J. Miller, A. Converse, William Brown and P. B. Price.

The Committee appointed to prepare a minute commemorative of the death of Rev. Wm. P. Hickman, made a report which was received and unanimously adopted, and is as follows:

The Synod having heard of the removal by death of their brother, Rev. Wm. P. Hickman of Montgomery Presbytery, who was slain in the battle of Cloyd's Mountain, on the — day of May, 1864, adopt the following commemorative minute:

The deceased voluntarily took up arms in defence of his country. He was impelled to this decision by no momentary impulse, but was actuated by the highest motives of christian principle. When the Federal army were invading his neighborhood, and carried wasting and destruction in their march, it was the deliberate conviction of

our brother that a dispensation was committed to his hands, and most bravely and heroically did he fulfil it. He met his death in the front of battle, and the last words which fell from his lips on that bloody field were, "Do your duty boys, my work is ended!"

The deceased was a profound biblical scholar, a devout christian and an able minister of the New Testament.

On motion, Mr. Robert A. Payne was associated with Rev. P. B. Price, to receive contributions for benevolent purpose, from members of this body.

The order of the day, (the subject of Army Chaplaincy) was taken up, and further discussed by several members of Synod, when a recess was taken until three and a half o'clock, P. M.

After recess Synod met.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted.

*Resolved*, That a Committee be appointed to take into consideration the religious instruction of the negroes, with the view of suggesting some plan, if any be found practicable, by which their spiritual necessities may be reached; said Committee to report at the next meeting of Synod.

The following were appointed to constitute said Committee, Rev. W. S. White, Rev. J. C. Stiles and Rev. Alexander Martin.

The Committee on the minutes of the General Assembly made a report, that they found nothing calling for Synodical action. The report was received and the Committee discharged.

Synod then proceeded with the order of the day, (the subject of Army Chaplains,) and after further discussion, the report of the Committee, and resolutions after amendment was adopted.

I. Touching the wants of the army, the statement is not exact but yet substantially correct, that if all in commission were present with their charges, about one half of the Regiments in the armies in Virginia, would have Chaplains of some denomination of the Protestant church. Many of the Regiments being now small, and closely associated in Brigades, it is believed that if each of the latter had, on an average two efficient Chaplains or Missionaries, it would be a bare supply. This estimate calls for sixty (60) new labourers for the field.

There are in Virginia 34 general or local permanent hospitals, with about 34 Chaplains or Missionaries; these should have an addition of as many more men.

The greatest destitution is in the temporary field hospitals, of which the number is large, but constantly changing and unknown. In these our brave men when sick or wounded, usually suffer and die without spiritual assistance. Their wants must be supplied chiefly by Missionaries, except as Chaplains from the field may be temporarily detailed for visiting them.

II. Touching the present supply. Our Synod out of about 185 ministers and Licentiates, has now in commission for permanent service as Chaplains or Missionaries, twenty-five men. In addition to these a large number of our brethren are doing a large and valuable work, by visits to the hospitals and camps, which cannot be estimated by figures. It is for our Ministers and Licentiates solemnly to consider before God, whether this is a sufficient part of our body to consecrate to this service, when so much larger portion of our lay brethren are toiling and bleeding for the defence of us and our country. Since the active campaign, the whole number of our denomination employed as permanent Gospel labourers in the army has sunk from 120 to 81, but of this diminution our Synod contributes very little.

III. For additional supply, the Committee would recommend the adoption by the Synod of the following resolutions.

1. That the Rev. J. C. Stiles, D. D., and the Rev. B. T. Lacy are affectionately urged to undertake during the sessions, as the work most appropriate to them, the enlisting of new labourers for the field and hospitals.

2. That ministers banished from their homes and charges, whether in Virginia or other Confederate States, are invited and urged to take service with these brethren, as the work to which Providence especially points them in their affliction.

3. That it is the deliberate judgment of the Synod, founded on the word of God, that all those Ministers and Licentiates, in whom the following conditions concur, viz: First, qualification for the field, second, bodily strength for the hardships of it, and third, opportunity to procure, if not adequate yet a tolerable supply for their present charges, are under solemn obligation from their vows to their Master, and from their duty to the souls of men and their country, to consider prayerfully the question of labouring permanently in the army; and if the three considerations above are not counterpoised by others peculiar to their cases, to decide this question affirmatively. In doing which it is their duty to make their account of preaching the word, patiently and diligently, amidst discouragement and opposition, if need be, and whether the immediate visible fruits be large or small. And finally, on this head, the Synod does testify that it is unworthy of a Christian Minister, and of citizenship in a commonwealth where our fellow citizens are properly required by the laws, as they are prompted by their own zeal, to bear evils of a military service for the public good, that any preacher of the gospel should give weight in deciding his duty, to mere personal hardships or domestic inconveniences.

IV. Touching the money requisite to sustain the work, the Committee do recommend that Synod adopt the following resolutions:

1. That the call of the Executive Committee of Domestic Missions, through Dr. J. L. Wilson, be commended to our churches and people, and they be urged to contribute promptly what may be necessary.

2. That the Board of Domestic Missions of the United Synod, in Richmond be respectfully requested, until such time as the General Assembly shall unite its operations with its own, to aid in the support of this work, either by appropriations to Rev. J. L. Wilson, D. D., or by supporting such persons commissioned by him as they may approve.

On motion an opportunity was given to persons present to contribute such sums to this cause as they may desire, and Rev. George W. White and Rev. D. Ewing were appointed to receive the same. The Committee afterwards reported the sum of \$331,25 as contributed.

The Committee to examine the records of the Presbytery of Lexington and of West Hanover, made their reports, recommending their approval, which were respectively received and adopted.

The Committee appointed to devise means to supply a deficiency in paying for printing the minutes, made their report which was received and adopted.

The Committee appointed to audit the Treasurer's accounts beg leave to report that they have found these accounts correct and sustained by proper vouchers, also that the increased expense of printing the minutes, &c., leaves a deficit of \$270, and will certainly cause a further deficit in the next year. To meet this they have had advanced to them by members of their respective Presbyteries, the following sums: Greenbrier Presbytery, \$20; Lexington, \$50; West Hanover, \$50; Roanoke, \$50; Montgomery, \$40; East Hanover, \$60; New River, \$20.

They recommend that the salary of the Stated Clerk be increased to \$200, till otherwise directed, and that the following assessments be made in the Presbyteries for the following year: Greenbrier, \$60; Lexington, \$100; West Hanover, \$100; Roanoke, \$100; Abingdon, \$140; Winchester, \$40; East Hanover, \$120.

JOHN MILLER, Chairman.

The Committee to arrange Presbyterian lines made a report, which was received and adopted.

The Committee to whom was left the defining of Presbyterian boundaries, as rendered necessary by the union of the Synod of Virginia and the New River Presbytery with this body, and in compliance with Article III, of the Act of Union, beg leave to report the following, viz:

1. That it is inexpedient and unnecessary to change the boundaries of any of the Presbyteries heretofore composing this Synod, except the Presbytery of Montgomery, whose western boundary hereafter shall be New River, and the churches and members of which, west of New River, shall belong to the Presbytery of New River, which shall also retain its previous boundary.

2. The Synod therefore declare the churches and members of the Presbyteries of Hanover, Piedmont and Winchester, of the United Synod, shall hereafter belong to such of the former Presbyteries as naturally include them within their limits, and that the churches and Ministers of Winchester Presbytery of the United Synod, east of the Blue Ridge, and north of the Presbyteries of West and East Hanover, be recognized as the Presbytery of Potomac, and also that any other churches and Ministers connected with said Winchester Presbytery, outside of the bounds of the Presbytery of Potomac, remain for the present under its care.

The Committee on Bills and Overtures made a report, stating that no papers or business had been put into their hands. The report was received and the Committee discharged.

The Committee to whom was referred the letter of R. F. Lester, on the subject of the Evangelical Tract Society, made a report, and an amendment thereto offered, which being discussed in part, Synod took a recess until seven and a half o'clock, P. M.

Synod met after recess.

The unfinished business was taken up, and after being further discussed, it was, on motion laid on the table.

On motion, the vote by which the report of the Committee to arrange Presbyterian lines has been adopted, was re-considered, and the said report was, on motion, amended so as to unite the two Presbyteries of Montgomery and New River in one, and under the name of Abingdon Presbytery, said Presbytery to hold its first stated meeting in Christiansburg at the time to which the Presbytery of Montgomery adjourned (the third Wednesday in April, 1865, at 7½ o'clock P. M.,) and continuing the succession of Montgomery Presbytery, as having a larger number of Ministers.

On motion, the following resolution was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Synod feels called on to express its regret that so few of our churches are represented in the present meeting, by Ruling Elders, and it is deemed a proper occasion to urge upon the Church Sessions the important duty on the part of Ruling Elders, to attend our Church Courts, regularly and promptly—a duty that should not be neglected except under circumstances of over-ruling necessity. And, Ministers are directed to call the special attention of Sessions to this resolution.

The Standing Committee on Ministerial Support presented a report, which was received and adopted.

Mr. Moderator. The appointment and duties of our Central Committee on Ministerial Support, are set forth in the following resolutions, adopted by the Synod at its last meeting, viz:

1. *Resolved*, That the Committee on Ministerial Support be reduced to five, and that five be selected with a view to their central, or nearly central locality.

2. *Resolved*, That this Committee shall have in charge the general operations of the scheme, and that the Committees on Ministerial Support in the respective Presbyteries be and are hereby enjoined to attend diligently to their duties, and after their fall meetings to report to the Committee of Synod, the general results of their operations, so that the latter Committee may report regularly to the Synod at each meeting.

Your Committee have received no reports from any of the Presbyteries, and, therefore, have no direct information to communicate, as to the attention generally given to this subject. We are happy to know, however, that many individual congregations are relieving their Ministers from a burden of care, by contributing in lieu of money, such articles of produce and clothing as are necessary for the comfort of their families. •

Your Committee composed entirely of Ruling Elders, consider the adequate support of the Ministry, a matter of the highest importance to the general welfare of the church at all times, and demanding the serious and constant attention of the Presbyteries and Church Sessions. This we regard as peculiarly the case in the present disturbed state of the country, and under the depreciated condition of the currency.

In view of the premises we offer for your adoption the following resolutions :

1. That the Presbyteries composing this Synod, are again enjoined to give this subject their special and immediate attention, and to instruct Church Sessions, under their care to report regularly on the manner in which the duty of supporting the Gospel, is discharged by their several congregations.

2. That the Church Sessions under the care of this body be, and are hereby instructed to take this matter in hand without waiting for the action of Presbyteries, and that they be urged to relieve their Ministers, as far as possible, from the cares and anxieties incident to providing for their families, by paying their salaries, as far as practicable, in articles of family consumption, and at such rates as to secure an adequate support.

3. That the Editors of the "Christian Observer" and "Central Presbyterian" be requested to publish this action of the Synod as soon as convenient.

COMMITTEE, { J. L. CAMPBELL, Chairman.  
F. JOHNSTON,  
WM. LEWIS.

On motion, Rev. Wm. Brown, D. D., and Rev. John Leyburn, D. D., were appointed a Committee to superintend the printing and distribution of the minutes of Synod.

The following resolution was adopted.

*Resolved*, That the Standing Committee on the state of the Church, be directed to take into consideration, and report to the Synod, some plan that may be deemed practicable, to secure the payment of the traveling expenses of members of Synod in attending its meetings.

*Resolved*, That the Presbytery of Potomac as established by this Synod, be directed to meet at Culpeper Court-House on the third Thursday in April, 1865, at 11 o'clock, A. M., and organize as directed by the book, and in case of failure to meet at that time and place, the Rev. A. D. Pollock is directed to call them together at such other time and place as he may think best.

Synod proceeded to fix the time and place of the next meeting; Lynchburg was chosen as the place, in the Second Presbyterian Church, and the First Wednesday in October, 1865, at 7½ o'clock P. M., as the time of the next meeting.

The Committee to examine the Records of East Hanover and Roanoke Presbyteries, reported that the Records had not been placed in their hands, and the Committee were discharged.

The Judicial Committee reported that no business had come before them, and were discharged.

Synod then adjourned until Monday morning at 9½ o'clock.

Closed with prayer.

MONDAY *October 17th*, 9½ o'clock, A. M.

Synod met and was opened with prayer.

Half an hour was spent in Devotional Exercises.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and the records approved.

The Committee on the Records of Montgomery Presbytery reported, recommending that they be approved as written. The report was accepted and the Records approved.

The subject of support for the Professors of Union Theological Seminary, was referred to a Committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Backcock and T. L. Preston.

The Committee on the Narrative made a report, which was accepted and adopted, and it was ordered to be published in the appendix to the minutes. (See appendix.)

On motion, the report of the Committee on the Evangelical Tract Society, was taken from the table, and after considerable discussion the following substitute was adopted, viz:

The associated and organized acts of the people of God for the conversion of the world unto Christ, are the proper functions of these officers, or of church courts constituted of them. Those who seek the world's conversion by societies of voluntary and human origin, distinct from the branches of Christ's visible church, therefore ought not to ask the officers and courts of the church to relinquish these labors to them. Yet we can bid them God-speed in all their sincere efforts to diffuse the true word of God, and we concede to the members of our churches full liberty to extend to them such personal aid as their christian consciences approve.

*Whereas*, The Committee on the state of the church made no report at the present meeting.

*Resolved*, That the same Committee be continued, and they be directed to report to the Synod at its next meeting.

The Treasurer of Synod made a report which was accepted, and approved, and is as follows:

The Treasurer farther reports that he has received the full amount of the Synod's assessment in all our Presbyteries, except that of Winchester, and he has also received through the Committee appointed by Synod, \$290,00 additional for the publishing of the minutes of Synod, viz: From Greenbrier Presbytery, \$20; Lexington, \$50; West Hanover, \$50; Roanoke, \$50; Montgomery, \$40; East Hanover, \$60; New River, \$20.

FRANCIS McFARLAND, Treasurer.

The Committee on Leave of Absence made the following report, which was accepted and approved.

The Committee on Leave of Absence report that they have granted Leave of Absence from the present sessions of Synod, to the following members, viz:



Rev. W. Pinkerton, after the session of Friday morning; Rev. W. E. Baker and Mr. E. G. Guthrie, after the session of Friday, Rev. S. Brown and Mr. J. W. Calhoun, after the session of Saturday morning. From the session after Saturday, Dr. Dabney, Rev's. W. W. Trimble, H. B. Rose, C. S. M. See, M. H. Bittenger, H. Brown, L. H. Blanton, N. W. Calhoun, Dr. Stiles and E. Thomas.

They have excused for absence from the present sessions, up to Saturday afternoon, Rev. R. C. Walker, for absence from the last meeting of Synod; Rev's W. G. Campbell, W. W. Trimble, E. Thomas, J. C. Barr, J. M. Rice, and L. Emerson, from the last three meetings; Rev's. M. H. Bittenger and G. D. Armstrong, D. D., from the last two meetings.

A. L. HOGSHEAD, Chairman.

The Committee on the Support of the Professors of the Union Theological Seminary, report an amendment to the report of the Committee on Union Theological Seminary, which was adopted, and annexed to that report.

The following action was taken in, respect to the Presbyterian Committee of Publication.

*Resolved*, That we rejoice to learn that the Presbyterian Committee of Publication has been instrumental in furnishing so much precious truth, especially in the army of our country.

2. That in view of the increasing importance of this work, and the necessity for sustaining it more vigorously, we earnestly commend it to the churches under our care, with the hope that it may receive a liberal and universal support.

A memorial of the Rev. William J. Hoge, D. D., was presented by the Committee appointed for that purpose, and adopted.

The Rev. William J. Hoge, D. D., entered into his everlasting rest, July 5th, 1864, in the 39th year of his age.

He was of an honored ancestry in the history of the Presbyterian church, and was immediately blessed with godly parents. Though early an orphan, yet the mercies of the covenant were richly and effectually upon him. He was licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Hocking, in 1850, and soon after removed to Richmond, Va., where his labors in the pulpit, and a large Female Seminary were highly appreciated. In 1852 he was ordained to the full work of the ministry, by the Presbytery of Baltimore, and installed pastor of the Westminster Church in that city.— In 1856 he was elected Professor of Biblical Introduction in Union Theological Seminary. In 1859 he became co-pastor of the Brick Church in the city of New York. As soon after the breaking out of the present war as arrangements could be made, he returned to Virginia, with whose struggle his heart fully sympathized. Soon after his arrival he took charge of the Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, where he remained in a faithful and useful service till the fall of 1863, when he accepted a call to the Tabb Street Church, in the city of Petersburg.

The limits proper for a notice upon our records, forbid us to dwell upon a life and character which so admirably filled a large place in the public eye, wherever his ministry was enjoyed, or upon the intense sorrow pervading our church, and indeed extending far beyond its pale, when bereaved by his death. We shall long remember him as a man holding in rare combination and fullness those endowments both of nature and of grace, which made him a noble christian gentleman, our loved companion and fellow laborer, a greatly gifted and successful preacher of the gospel, who turned many to righteousness.

His vigorous health and the prime of his manhood, gave promise of many years to be devoted to a work he so ardently loved, and into which the extraordinary enthusiasm of his nature was so thoroughly thrown. But a wisdom and power to whose behests it becomes us to bow as submissively as did our beloved brother, has transferred him to a higher service, a "far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

His end was wonderfully peaceful and triumphant, and the touching narrative published concerning it, has a very wide spread interest, as an illustration of the sustaining power and grace of God. "It is dark," he said, "*dark*, but never mind that, it is only natural darkness. I am dead, physically dead, but spiritually alive in Christ Jesus, FOREVERMORE." These were nearly his last words.

Blessed be God for what he was in life, and in death, and for what he shall be, world without end, in the kingdom of glory.

The Committee appointed to prepare a Pastoral Letter, presented a report which was accepted, and after certain amendments adopted, and the editors of the Central Presbyterian and Christian Observer, requested to publish it in their columns.

*Resolved*, unananimously, That we tender our cordial thanks to the members of this church, and other citizens of Lexington, for their hospitality and courtesy to the members of this Synod during their sessions, and to the authorities of the Protestant Episcopal and Methodist churches, for the use of their houses of worship, and also to the Presidents and Directors of the Danville, Southside and Central Railroads, for the facilities of travel extended to members of this Judiciary.

*Resolved*, That the sum of money collected for Army Chaplaincy, amounting in all to \$427.25, be placed in the hands of the Committee, appointed for its reception, and sent to the Assistant Committee of Domestic Missions.

Synod adjourned to meet in the Second Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, on the first Wednesday in October, 1865, at 7½ o'clock, P. M.

Concluded with singing, prayer and the Apostolic benediction.

CHAS. H. READ, *Moderator*.

F. JOHNSTON, } *Clerks*.  
P. FLETCHER, }

FRANCIS MCFARLAND, *Stated Clerk*.

## APPENDIX.

## NARRATIVE OF THE STATE OF RELIGION IN THE SYNOD OF VIRGINIA.

For years past the prominent idea in the narrative of religion from this Synod has been, that the afflictive judgments of God were pressing heavily upon the church. As a necessary consequence of this condition, there have been many hindrances to the regular and efficient use of the means upon which the church depends for success. The same sad fact is again to be mentioned. The Presbyteries from which reports have come, mention as a cause of thankfulness the fact, that they are enabled, even to a limited degree, to use effectively the means for the promotion of Christ's Kingdom, and that these efforts are measurably blessed with success. We have become familiar with the complaint that ministers have been driven from their homes or imprisoned, that sanctuaries have been desecrated or closed, and that congregations have been scattered and peeled, so that we seem to have accepted it as a cause of grateful acknowledgment to God that under judgments so severe, we are enabled at all to live and to labor.

But whilst we report that we are still painfully learning the lessons of adversity under the chastisements of God, it is our pleasure, and a cause of unbounded gratitude to God, to add, that these lessons so oft repeated, and now so deeply imprinted upon the heart, have not been without legitimate results. We now see the goodness and severity of God. Not in vain have we smarted under the rod and been humbled to the dust; not in vain have we deplored the desolations of Zion, and mourned, and fasted and wept. For blessed be God, to-day we rejoice with exceeding great joy; to-day we witness the power of God made perfect in our weakness; to-day we receive with unspeakable gratitude a rich manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit which we accept as an earnest of even better things to come. Christian ministers and people long severed are re-united; differences of opinion and diversities of sentiment are forgotten; everything that hinders cordial and fraternal reconciliation banished; and to-day we think the visible body of Christ more like what the sacramental host of God's elect should be than ever before: for now we see a large and living exemplification of that charity, which is the bond of perfectness. We are stronger than before by the union of our powers; purer than before, because we hear him say, "peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you." Without hesitation

we claim to have received a precious manifestation of the power of God's Spirit in thus healing divisions, uniting brethren, and restoring peace within our bounds; and for his rich mercy and grace let all the people praise Him.

The Synod would also make mention of the solemn truth—that amid all our blessings and mercies—God has most sorely afflicted us. Two of our ordained ministers, Rev. Wm. J. Hoge, D. D., and Rev. W. P. Hickman, have been taken to their rest during the Synodical year, and two of our candidates, Mr. J. W. Poague and Mr. Lynch, have fallen in defence of our country. Appropriate committees have brought in becoming memorials concerning the virtues and graces of the two former, and we would take this opportunity of expressing our high appreciation of the noble qualities of mind and heart which prompted the patriotism of our younger and not less ardent brethren. It is sad to think of their untimely death, blasting so many fond hopes of ministerial usefulness, but “The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away—blessed be the name of the Lord!”

The attention of this Synod has been constantly directed to the wants of the army, and vigorous efforts are now making to supply the destitution there existing.

For our failures in duty and want of faith during the past year, we ask the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ; for the rich and unmerited favors of our Heavenly Father, we will forever bless His Holy name.

C. H. READ, *Moderator.*

*Lexington, Va., October, 1864.*

## DOCKET OF BUSINESS FOR 1865.

Moderator and two Clerks to be elected.

Printed Minutes to be distributed.

Standing Committees to be appointed by the Moderator, viz:

On Leave of Absence.

On Bills and Overtures.

A Judicial Committee.

On Union Theological Seminary. They nominate Directors. The term of service of Wm S. White, D. D., S. D. Stuart and A. G. McIlwaine now expires. It does not appear that Directors were elected in 1863.

On Minutes of the General Assembly.

On the Narrative of the State of Religion.

On Devotional Services.

Committees to review the Records of the several Presbyteries.

Report of the Directors of Union Theological Seminary to be read and committed.

Presbyterial Narrative on the State of Religion to be read and referred.

Statistical Reports from Presbyteries to be presented and read.

The permanent Committee on Ministerial Support to report.

The Committee on the State of the Church to report: Dr. Ramsey Chairman.

The Committee consisting of the Board of Directors and Faculty of the Union Theological Seminary to report on the expediency of transferring the direct control of the Seminary to the General Assembly, to report.

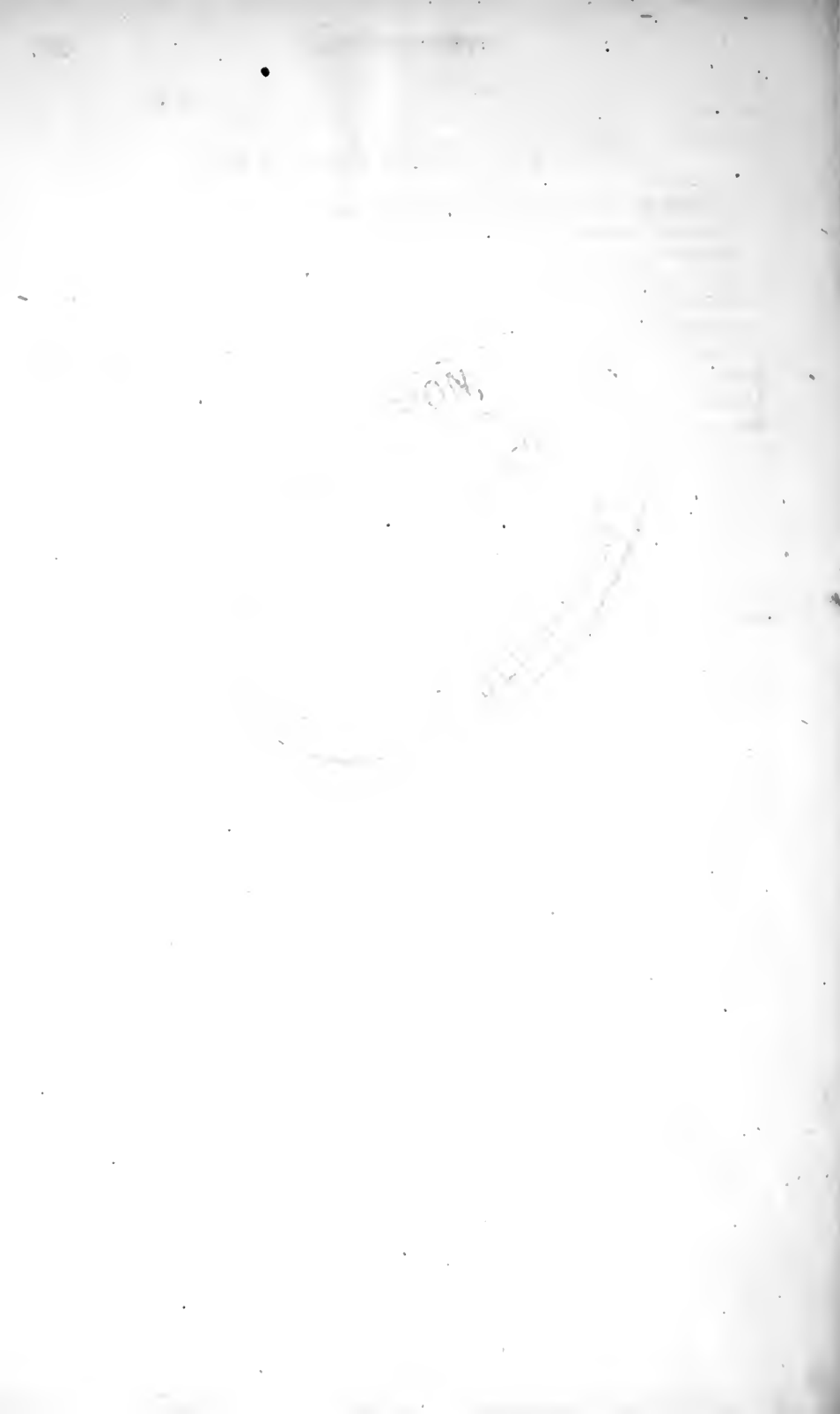
Reports from Presbyteries on Evangelistic Labor to be made.

Presbyteries to report their diligence in Systematic Benevolence.

Appoint a time and place for the next meeting of Synod.

Committee to report a plan of reaching the Spiritual necessities of the negroes: Dr. White, Chairman.

The Committee on the State of the Church to report some plan of paying the traveling expenses of members attending Synod.



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**To the object of the Committee of**

## PUBLICATION,

**To be made in the month of**

March,

May,

June,

August,

Dep. or Ucl.